



# CITY OF TUCSON



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## NEWS RELEASE

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Roberto A. Villaseñor  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 03/18/2012  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### IN-CUSTODY DEATH 3155 NORTH ALVERNON WAY

The Tucson Police Department was notified of a domestic violence incident occurring at an apartment in the 3000 Block of North Alvernon Way at 11:49 p.m. on March 17, 2012. Officers from Operations Division Midtown responded to the apartment, arriving 4-minutes later at 11:53 p.m. Upon arrival, two officers contacted the male and female who were involved in the domestic violence incident. Initially, both the male and female remained inside of the apartment, and officers spoke to them through a wrought iron screen door. After a few minutes, the door was opened and the male stepped out to speak with officers. He was verbally argumentative and confrontational with the officers before suddenly running from them. Officers pursued the male, notifying other officers of the foot chase via the police radio, as he ran northbound on North Alvernon Way. The male ran into the **Circle K store located at 3155 North Alvernon Way**. The pursuing officers located him in the store and began to give him verbal commands. The male continued to be verbally confrontational with him and would not comply with their commands. The initial two officers were able to take the male to the ground, where he began to physically fight with them. Additional officers arrived and assisted in the fight. One officer tased the male two times with limited effect. Ultimately, the officers were able to detain him in handcuffs and escort him to the outside of the store.

As is standard procedure in any incident where a taser has been deployed, Tucson Fire Department medical personnel were requested and responded to the Circle K store. The male continued to be verbally loud and uncooperative with medical personnel as they were working to obtain basic biographical and medical information from him. The Tucson Fire Department personnel requested police assistance with placing the male on the ground in the parking lot area in front of the store. At that time, there was no indication that he was in distress. Shortly after he was put on the ground, the male suddenly became unresponsive. The handcuffs were immediately removed as Tucson Fire Department personnel initiated efforts to revive him. As he continued to be non-responsive, medical personnel transported him to a local hospital for additional medical evaluation and treatment. The male was pronounced deceased at 12:56 a.m. on March 18, 2012 while at the hospital. He has been identified as **46-year old Michael Carbone**. Next of kin have been notified.

Detectives from the Tucson Police Department Homicide Unit as well as investigative personnel from the Office of Internal Affairs responded to the Circle K store in order to conduct an investigation regarding the death of Mr. Carbone.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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This is standard procedure in all in-custody death situations. The officers that initially responded to the apartment before chasing Mr. Carbone to the Circle K store were Officer Albert Baca (3 year veteran) and Officer Anissa Lozano (4.5 year veteran). Additional officers that assisted Officer Baca and Officer Lozano with the physical fight inside the store included Officer Quan Nguyen (3 year veteran), Officer Eric Altman (4.5 year veteran), Officer David Danielson (3 year veteran), and Officer Russel Southerland (2.5 year veteran). The two officers that assisted Tucson Fire Department personnel with Mr. Carbone outside of the store were Officer Roland Gutierrez (9 year veteran) and Officer Jason Ives (4.5 year veteran).

Initial indications are that Mr. Carbone may have been under the influence of an unknown drug. An autopsy will be performed to determine if drugs or alcohol were factors influencing the suspect's behavior. The Homicide Unit will continue the criminal investigation, which will be presented to the Pima County Attorney's Office for review.

The Office of Internal Affairs will coordinate an administrative Board of Inquiry, which will examine several facets of the Department's response to this incident, including whether current training, equipment, supervision, and policies are adequate and appropriate. This type of administrative review is standard protocol when a subject dies while in the custody of Tucson Police Department personnel. The process enables the department to apply any lessons learned during critical incident responses to ensure that the department continues to provide exceptional service to the community.

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